## Public Notice: Chlorine Residual

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

The Flagstaff Municipal Water System had a treatment technique violation for chlorination. The chlorination system at the North Reservoirs Filtration Plant went into emergency shut down on 7-13-2006 at 10:45 PM and was returned to normal operation 7-14-2006 at 8:00 AM. As a result finished water entering the 250,000 gallon clear well at the plant had a



concentration < 0.2 ppm for over 4 hours. The non-chlorinated water mixed with water that was already in the clear well that had a concentration of approximately 1 ppm. Different sources of water primarily serve different parts of the city. The area that had the greatest potential to be affected by this incident was the Cheshire sub-division.

## What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

## What does this mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had, you would have been notified immediately. Tests taken during this time period indicated that there were normal chlorine levels in the distribution system and storage reservoirs and did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the water. This was due to mixing of chlorinated and non-chlorinated water in the distribution system and storage reservoirs. The ultraviolet disinfection process at the plant was also operational during the entire time.

Although our tests indicate that the water was adequately disinfected, inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

## What happened? What is being done?

It is unclear why the chlorination system went into emergency shut-down, but it is believed that the cause was an irregularity in the power supply. Additional programming of the sensing unit has been performed that will allow tracking to occur in the future. A new hard-wired system has been created due to this incident that will cause existing chlorine and turbidity monitoring equipment to trigger a shut down of the entire treatment process in the future if the chlorine level approaches high or low limit or the turbidity approaches high limit.

For more information please contact Jack Rathjen, Water Production Manager for the City of Flagstaff: 4500 S. Lake Mary Rd., Flagstaff, AZ 86001, 928-774-0262.

Please share this information with other people who drink the water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.